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TEMPORAL LOBES SIGNS AND JUNGIAN DIMENSIONS OF PERSONALITY[1]

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Summary.—Phenomenological experiences that suggest temporal lobe lability were correlated with Jungian personality (Myers-Briggs) indicators. People with frequent temporal lobe indicators were more intuitive than sensing and more perceiving than judging; in the more general population temporal lobe indicators were also weakly associated with feeling rather than thinking. Students who were actively engaged in a drama class also displayed more frequent temporal lobe signs than psychology students. The data are commensurate with the hypothesis that the relationship between belief in psi phenomena, psi experiences, and specific cognitive styles is derived from a temporal lobe lability factor.

Phenomenological indicators, similar to those displayed by patients with known limbic (temporal lobe) epilepsy, are positively correlated with a propensity to report paranormal experiences (Persinger & Valliant, 1985). Lester, Thinschmidt, and Trautman (1987) reported that people who believe in psi-related phenomena displayed higher feeling, perceiving, and intuitive scores on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI). Because (1) psi belief and psi experiences are moderately, positively correlated (Persinger & Valliant, 1985) and (2) psi experiences are moderately, positively correlated with temporal lobe signs (Persinger & Makarec, 1987), we predicted that: (1) these three scores from the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator should be significantly and positively correlated with temporal lobe signs and (2) people who engage in courses that select specific cognitive styles (i.e., drama) that encourage intuition, feeling, and perception should display more frequent temporal lobe signs.

In Exp. I, a total of 27 male and 51 female students (age range 18 to 27 yr.) from a first-year psychology class and an advanced psychology class served as controls; they were compared with 18 students (6 men, 12 women) who were actively engaged in a drama class. In Exp. II, completed one year later by the second author, a total of 33 (15 men, 18 women) subjects (age range 20 to 35 yr.) from a neuropsychology course served as subjects. Within group settings (Exp. I) or singly (Exp. II), each person completed the brief (16 CPES or complex partial epileptic signs and 16 control items: Persinger & Makarec, 1987) or complete PPI (140 items) and the Myers-Briggs. The percentages of yes responses for the complex partial epileptic signs and control items were calculated for all subjects. Pearson correlations were completed between the temporal lobe signs and control scales and each of the Myers-Briggs scales. In Exp. I, one-way analyses of variance were completed for the six measures according to class (psychology vs drama).

The means and standard deviations (in parentheses) for the complex partial epileptic signs and control scores for Exp. I and II were 34 (19)% and 62 (13)%, and 31 (21)% and 70 (10)%, respectively; they are within the average range (Persinger & Makarec, 1987). In Exp. I the percentage of temporal lobe signs was positively correlated ($df = 76$, $p < .05$) with intuition (0.33), feeling (0.20), and perceiving (0.34) scores. Extraversion-introversion scores were not correlated significantly with temporal lobe signs; the control scores were not correlated signifi-

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cantly with any of the four Jungian dimensions. In Exp. II people who reported more temporal lobe signs also showed higher ($df = 31$, $p < .01$) intuitive (0.40) and perceiving (0.42) scores; there was no significant correlation between temporal lobe signs and extraversion-introversion or thinking-feeling scores; control scores were not significantly correlated with any of the Jungian dimensions.

One-way analyses of variance indicated that the students who were enrolled in the drama class displayed more frequent ($F_{1,94} = 5.32$, $p = .02$) temporal lobe signs: 46(22)%, but not control: 56(11)% scores compared to the first-year psychology students that served as a reference group [35(17)% and 61(12)%]. Although the two groups did not display significant differences on the extraversion-introversion or thinking-feeling scores, the drama group [standard score of 14.9 (22.0)] was significantly more intuitive ($F_{1,96} = 17.97$, $p < .001$) than the psychology students [−9.6 (23.8)]; the enhanced perceiving scores of the drama group approached significance ($F_{1,96} = 3.34$, $p < .10$). For all six scales, there were only two sex differences: women were more feeling ($F_{1,106} = 8.66$, $p = .004$) than thinking and more perceiving ($F_{1,106} = 4.89$, $p = .03$) than judging, relative to men.

These results suggest that the moderate (between 0.30 and 0.40) correlations: (1) between psi beliefs and Jungian cognitive styles (Lester, *et al.*, 1987), (2) psi beliefs and psi-reported experiences (Persinger & Valliant, 1985) and (3) psi experiences and temporal lobe signs, may be mediated by a central factor, temporal lobe lability. The validity of this statement is supported by the recent observations (Makarec & Persinger, in press) that these items are positively correlated with the range of electrical activity within temporal but not the occipital region.

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